

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

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GRACE

Construction Products Division

W.R. Grace & Co.
62 Whittemore Avenue
Cambridge, Mass. 02140

16171 876-1400

Dear Mr. Architect:

During the past few months, our competitors have been circulating false rumors about the asbestos content of certain vermiculite-based products. While the rumors attack several vermiculite-based products, most are directed to Monokote®, W. R. Grace & Co.'s cementitious structural steel fireproofing. As the Division President of a major supplier of vermiculite-based products, I would like to provide you with the facts.

All of our vermiculite-based products, including Monokote, are manufactured without the addition of any commercial asbestos, and this has been true for ten years.

Vermiculite is a naturally occurring mineral, mined from deposits which may also have asbestiform tremolite containing rock. Except for trace amounts, the tremolite is removed in the processing of vermiculite. It is this processed vermiculite which is used in all of our finished vermiculite-based products, including Monokote.

Since the introduction of Monokote Type MK-4 and Type MK-5 to the marketplace in 1973, we have had the products tested for asbestos content a number of times by independent testing laboratories. Attached are copies of the four most recent analyses, two completed by the Environmental Science Laboratories of Mt. Sinai Hospital and two by Arthur D. Little, Inc. These results are consistent with those obtained over the past ten years. Based on all of these tests, we believe that Monokote is asbestos-free.

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- 2 -

In addition to performing analyses of finished products, we also perform air sampling tests to determine possible concentrations of air-borne fibers to which workers may be exposed under job-site conditions. In our most recent tests, all measurements showed air-borne fiber concentrations below reliably detectable levels. As a result, we believe that when our products are used in accordance with instructions, they pose no unreasonable health risk.

I trust that the information provided in this letter will enable you to specify Grace products with the same confidence, in their safety and performance, as you have in the past.

Very truly yours,

Rodney M. Vining,
President

RMV/jag
Attachments

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